361 considered, the most attractive place in the entire Province. What makes of it a
529 health-resort is the fact that of all places in the Province, it has the record
133 for sunshine, and that it has the same wonderful climate as the Swiss health-resort of Davos, only 18 kilometres distant as the crow flies.

That the Montafon, particularly the Inner Fratte, has lost its original character
361 of a mountain farming area is immediately evident when one comes to Parthenen,
133 last of the valley settlements. At first glance it is recognised as an industrial township.
377 Montafon's name of the "Valley of White Coal" is here justified, for the district in which Parthenen is situated is devoted to the production of electrical power. Cable-railways, elevators, narrow-gauge railways running at a height of over 5,000 and 6,000 feet, extensive plants and tunnels several kilometres in length show at first glance with what energy technical knowledge is striving to render the forces of nature of service to man. The source of these forces is the glaciers of the main range, the "Blue Silvretta", famous as a ski-resort in spring. It is easy to repeat without giving the matter further thought that the beauty and natural charm of the mountains are destroyed when their useful potentialities are exploited by mechanical means. It is far wiser and more just to go oneself (and how much simpler the many inventions of the much abused mechanical developments have made such a trip), to ascertain with one's own eyes that the two enormous artificial lakes at Vermunt and Obervermunt have lent a touch of beauty to the picture which was lacking in the monotonous valley which they have superseded. For the mountain lover there still remain the combs and peaks of the monarch of the Vorarlberg Alps, the 9892 foot high Piz Buin, which he can approach with untroubled heart and a determination to dare its perils, without any risk that his ideal picture will be found marred by the spirit of a profit-seeking age.

529 THE LOFTY CASTLE OF THE
526 WHITE ART. It is not so very many years ago that winter was regarded as a visitation of God. More especially was this the attitude of the mountain folk whose means of livelihood were drastically curtailed during the cold months by the many feet of snow. This attitude only underwent a change when human ingenuity succeeded in making use of two strips of wood bound to the feet with one end bent upwards, which brought with them greater freedom of movement even over deep snow. This happened in Austria towards the end of the last century. One of the areas in which this now widespread

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Old Montafon National Costume (Woman).

"White Art" was developed and cultivated is the Arlberg, which takes its name from the pass which was well-known as a connecting-link between Tyrol and Vorarlberg even in mediaeval times.

The name Arlberg is a magic word which arouses echoes in the heart of every skier, of whom there are hundreds of thousands today. There is scarcely another part of Europe which satisfies so many demands of modern ski-ing as this mountain-world on the borders of Tyrol and Vorarlberg. It gave its name to a well-known ski-ing style, and the name of Hannes Schneider is inseparably connected with the conception of ski-ing. You will quickly get an inkling of the Arlberg district's meaning for the sporting side of modern ski-ing if, at the end of winter, you glance down the lists of winners of the great international races; again and again you find Arlberg names at the head of them. The importance of the Arlberg from a ski-ing as well as from a tourist point of view will be understood and never forgotten by anyone who has ever spent a week there at the height of the season.

[496] The line of approach to this eldorado of the "White Art" is the Arlberg railway, which ascends from the Vorarlberg side of Bludenz in daring curves, overcoming the natural barriers of the narrow Klostertal by many a viaduct and tunnel to reach Langen-on-the-Arlberg, nearly 4000 feet above sea level.

On arriving in Langen one is at once confronted by a scene of activity. Motor-sleighs and innumerable horse-drawn sleighs, vast piles of luggage and a crowd of shouting and excitedly gesticulating people—a gathering of many nations—fill the square in front of the station. Within a few minutes this confusion resolves itself into an orderly line of vehicles which sets out over the Arlbergstrasse and Flexenstrasse with a rattling and tinkling of bells towards Stuben, Zürs and Lech,

[491] well-known winter-sport resorts. The drive over the Flexenstrasse, especially in winter, is an unforgettable experience. No one can fail to be impressed by the manner in which this important highroad has been built in defiance of natural obstacles, with a vast expenditure of time and money, but with a due regard for the beauties of nature.

The less attractive the Arlberg scenery around Zürs is in summer, the more appeal the treeless white slopes have in winter when they are softly blanketted

in deep snow sown with glittering crystals. When a blue sky rises in an arch above, it is enough to make every heart beat more quickly. One feels an irresistible urge to set forth on skis, to plough a shadowy blue track in the virgin white, to hear the crackling and whispering of the myriad shining snow crystals, to abandon one's body and spirit to a purity and freedom which is only to be found in the alpine heights in wintertime. And the experience of the whirlwind descent, the snow flying up like clouds of star-dust! Here there is enjoyment for everyone, even though their numbers run into thousands. There is room enough for each one to get away from the others and to make a track of his own. The great hotels are ready to furnish proof that city dwellers who cling to their standard of comfort are also catered for. A first class ski-school provides individual and successful instruction in the White Art, and the ski-lifts enable those setting out on a ski-tour to reach attractive areas without effort.

Lech-on-the-Arlberg is even more beautiful scenically than Zürs, although it does not lie so high and is less fashionable. Perhaps just for this reason it is more intimate and cosy. Lech attracts many guests in summer as well, although it is chiefly a winter-sport resort, furnished with all the necessary modern equipment.

Before we say good bye to the Arlberg, let us take a glance at one of its wild and romantic beauties—the avalanches. Many readers may be surprised to hear avalanches numbered among the beauties of nature, but their surprise betrays that they have never experienced the grandiose spectacle of this wintery force on the Arlberg. When on fine days towards the end of March and in April the modestly blooming violet begins to oust the snow in the valleys, high up amidst the peaks, still in full winter costume, an ominous rolling and a muttering begin which strike a chill into one's very bones. Lying in the sun in a safe corner, one can watch this drama of nature for hours without wearying. Again and again one looks up as one catches the rumbling sound, and in a few seconds gigantic masses of snow like a great white river throwing up showers of spray cascade down over black rocks into the ravine below. Long

529 Ischl. That is the atmosphere and feeling of comfort. There is a healthy optimism in the air of each, a natural and effervescent joy in living which knows no artifice.

SPORT.

526 The idea of sport in a modern sense—Athens in 1896, Coubertin, memories of Olympia—has fallen on fruitful soil in Austria, as her sportsmen have proved in the prizes which they have carried off at various international competitions. There is no need to concern ourselves here with gold and silver medals, nor with records, distances covered, split seconds and points. Let us leave aside champions and their tabulated achievements, the "wonder-teams" of former years, world-famous ski-ers and the "strong men" of Vienna. Here let us consider sport in its natural and most attractive shape, as a means of gaining strength and of recuperation for all, to whom it offers the joy in living which comes from a healthy body.

Expressions frequently heard such as the daily grind, the dull jogtrot of life are not applicable to Austria and its inhabitants in a literal sense. Whoever sets a wandering foot on the ground anywhere between the Bodensee and Neusiedlersee can be sure of a constantly changing view, of a world twisting and turning up hill and down dale in mountain and valley. Anyone wanting to go from one town to another, or even from village to village feels his senses quicken in the freedom of the lovely countryside. The air, fresh with the dew on the grass or heavy with the scent of flowers, so bathes the skin, the lungs, that it seems as though burdens had been cast away.

Living and working in this atmosphere throughout the centuries has given the men broad shoulders and sinewy figures; the women are high-waisted, with narrow hips, graceful necks and shoulders and slender, well-shaped feet. The Austrian has a passion for "wandern"—for hiking—deeply engrained within him. His mouth demands to breathe in the air of the great mountains, his foot the soft carpet of mossy slopes and his eye continual change, now drinking in the green of near-by forests, now reaching out to the distant lines which the silent horizon has etched against the bright sunshine. The driving force behind all sport in Austria is the need to be with and to experience nature, the delight in the light of day, the need to grasp the earth as

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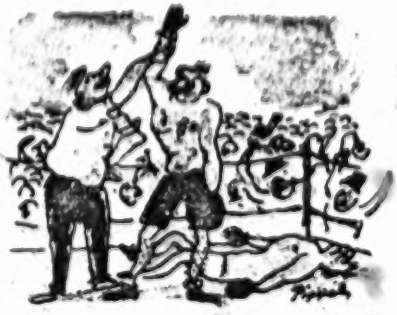
one's own possession. In her intensification of this harmony of man and nature and quickening of his joy of living, Austria cannot easily be excelled. From the highest point of the Tauern range down to the warm, sailcovered lakes of Carinthia, sport is being enjoyed in one form or another and is adding to Austria's sporting reputation as a whole.

There is something to suit everyone, no matter what his age or capability, which will help him to preserve his youth and pleasure in life as long as possible. Four types of sport predominate: Ski-ing, mountaineering, water sports and hunting game.

The Arlberg School of ski-ing is famous even beyond the Continent of Europe and is practised alongside glaciers and on mountains even in midsummer. But in winter more people make the shadowy tracks in the powdery snow according to rules of their own devising than there are ski-ing pupils in the whole country. Slalom on the steep slopes, the jump, skijöring, ski-elevator and overhead railway all crowd together within a small space.

Mountaineering is no less attractive. Climbing at the end of a rope or alone up through a narrow cleft in the side of a mountain, over precipices and crags, mountain trips, ascents along secured or dangerous pathways, the rest at the summit, life in the huts and tours along the mountain saddles. To reach the mountains has been made almost easy, for car roads, elevators and overhead railways do away with the toil of the ascent. But there is still room for both types, for the mountaineer of the old school who carries rucksack, pick and rope up to the heights himself and for the others who are in a hurry and who are saved half the trouble of climbing by making use of modern facilities.

On the lakes sport can be combined with pleasant holidays. There is rowing, swimming, sailing, diving and—the beach. In winter sleighs glide swift as the wind over the grey surface; skates carry one from shore to shore almost without effort, past clean-swept rinks where many an hour is spent in keen competition in the Austrian version of curling.



On the rivers, on the wildly foaming waters, paddlers guide the kajak and the light canoe boldly over dangerous snags and eddies. Golf, tennis, motor-boating, country riding, motoring, free gymnastic exercises with gymnasium apparatus and every kind of indoor sport are all

526 equally cultivated in Austria. Everything arouses enthusiasm which tends to bring man closer to nature.

HUNTING.

224 Everyone passing through Austria who looks at it with the eye of a hunter will immediately get an idea of the country's hunting possibilities from the variations of nature alone. There are ice-covered mountain peaks with rocky gorges and belts of meadows, dark mountain forests, open stretches covered with undergrowth, reed-surrounded lakes and ponds, fields lined by hedges and the unending ploughed fields of the eastern plains.. From a huntsman's point of view this all affords ideal living conditions for furred and feathered game. This widely varying countryside provides plentiful food supplies for the many kinds of wild creatures who stock it.

The chamois, a species of game which is typical for Austria, can be found anywhere in the Alps. Hunting this mountain antelope, either the red summer chamois or the dark rutting chamois, is considered to be one of the most fascinating experiences. In well-stocked preserves made easily accessible by the narrow mountain paths that are to be found in North Tyrol, it often calls for no special exertion or knowledge of climbing to get the chance of a shot under the expert guidance of a gillie. Hunting on the slopes of the higher mountains where there is rough going among the rocks can be an altogether different business. The hunting tracks often follow difficult ascents with alarmingly steep precipices, the shooting hut may be close to a glacier. The exertion is well repaid on such difficult trips by the excitement of the chase.

A scarcely less thrilling experience—at rutting time it affords even more excitement—is deer-stalking in the mountains. Deer can be hunted in summer in the high alps, but the stalking of the rutting stag is the supreme experience for the sportsman. Anyone who has heard the rutting call of the stag amid the pastures and crags of our mountains, has watched the mating of the noble red deer among the lovely shades of autumn forests and has finally given proof of his hunting prowess by shooting a correctly stalked buck will record such hours in Austria in his golden book of the chase.

HEAD OF GAME SHOT IN 1935

Red Deer	*14,390*
Fallow Deer	*457*
Roebuck	*76,416*
Chamois	*7,279*
Black Game	*167*
Hares	*528,765*
Rabbits	*38,811*
Marmots	*1,543*
Foxes	*11,707*
Martens	*1,265*
Weasels	*7,128*
Polecats	*4,235*
Badgers	*1,076*